

## CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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The corn dodger proposes to do its bit in winning the war.

Lord Lansdowne wants a "clean," permanent peace. So say we all.

Hungary declares she is hungry for peace, but has lost her appetite for conquest.

It is probably a mystery to Joe Tumulty as to how he came to be mentioned for senator.

The groundhog was considerate. He probably reasoned that there is a limit to popular patience.

Tennessee once had a "sky blue" democracy, and now Alabama is organizing a booze democracy.

General Flood seems to be assuming command of the situation abandoned by General Blizard.

The recrudescence of the Italians may offer a still greater stimulus to the peace propaganda in Austria.

'Twas throwing words away, for still, the colonel would have his will, and said, "Nay, we are unprepared."

The Memphis Commercial Appeal is of opinion that landlords should share in the loss to stores from enforced closing.

Speaking of heroic remedies, those Texas recruits who shot each other to escape service were making a very good start.

Stories of German cruelty which await American prisoners are not calculated to simplify the task of capturing them.

The name of Mrs. O'Grady, the woman deputy police commissioner of New York, suggests that she will not tolerate any foolishness.

Gov. Davis wants to make Virginia safe for democracy by providing for the election of supreme judges by the people instead of by the legislature.

The situation is decidedly more pacific at Washington. Secretary Baker and Senator Chamberlain have dined together with no casualties reported.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer has dug up the fact that the seven eclipses of 1917 were the biggest number since 1365, which was also a year of wars.

Another thing which gave us hope of an early peace is the report that the barley for German breweries has been commandeered for war purposes.

Feet and teeth defects are to be overlooked in the examination of those subject to the next draft. Even cold feet will be no excuse for exemption.

According to Prof. Delbruck, Germany has no thought of forcible annexation of Belgium. What has been done there was merely a coquettish flirtation!

Mary Garden wants to marry a man who cannot sing, according to the Nashville Banner. She can find him very easily, but may experience trouble in landing him.

Sending strikers to the front is, at best, a temporary expedient for disposing of the German uprising. There will still have to be somebody to do the work at home.

Ambassador Francis has been indirectly threatened by Russian anarchists, but his friends in America comfort themselves with the reflection that he still has his gun with him.

It may be that the order not to waste water, in Louisville, was caused by fear that a time was approaching when there would be nothing else available, wherewith to quench one's thirst.

Uncle Sam has discovered that the barberry is about the same to wheat as the boll weevil is to cotton. It causes the black rust. Therefore, he wants an appropriation from congress to exterminate it.

Savoyard, the eminent Washington correspondent and former Kentuckian, admits that liquor has dealt him many a savage blow, but he wants to retain the privilege of wreaking revenge by destroying it a little at a time.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper holds that congressmen are neither "officers nor employees" of the government, hence must pay the occupational income tax. This decision may not be good law but it accomplishes substantial justice. Those, however, who are held to be employees have no better right to exemption. It is little jokers like these in law that will send a lot of new men to congress next fall.

## WARNING AGAINST GRANTS OF POWER.

"Congress will do well to weigh carefully all requests for grants of power," writes the Washington Post.

It mentions the enormous powers that already have been granted. It has been found, it observes, that these do not solve the war problems. "There is no relativity in the powers granted." Hence the powers exercised by the food administrator may clash with those granted the fuel administrator.

This has kept the president constantly perplexed.

"Co-ordination," says the Post, "is the most overworked word in Washington."

No one is to blame for this, says that paper. Every one is doing his best and the country is loyal.

"The bare truth is," says the newspaper at the capital, "that congress, after declaring war, ground out a hash of laws without coherence or boundaries, called them 'war powers' and shuffled them over upon the president, together with billions of dollars, and called upon him to win the war."

That about sizes it up. We are glad one of the newspapers at the capital has at last waked up to the danger of this kind of legislation. Because The News did not accept all these new-fangled expedients for what was claimed for them by their authors, we were criticised.

They did not strike us as being in accordance with the principles of Jeffersonian democracy. We didn't believe they were really in the interest of efficiency. Most of the war bills passed last year conferred on the administration enormous powers to do almost anything it saw fit. When the fuel administrator recently used one of these powers there was a yawp from Maine to California. The very crowd which had been most anxious to tear down the government of the fathers and make of it a one-man institution yelped loudly.

Our Constitution is one of checks and balances. This has been rather a slow way of doing things, but it is "durned safe." Congress in years past has been one of the co-ordinate functions, equal to executive and judicial. The president didn't ask the house and senate to immolate themselves, but that, in effect, is what they have done. Now when he acts as if he thought they meant business, an awful rigor has gone up the spine of the average member.

It's going to be a hard matter to lodge this power back in congress. We are fortunate that we have a president and cabinet who are moderate in the use of the power and wise in their day. We have done a good deal of baiting of Germany and its systems, but if any country in the world has seemed to push faster into an excess of the things for which Prussia is odious to us, we don't know it.

But at heart our people are truly democratic. They only resorted to such expedients because they were so zealous for our country's cause. Even now they begin to see that the old ship of state, with its masts and sails rigged up in queer, old-fashioned manner, as in the days of long ago, is a pretty seaworthy craft after all.

Certainly we have gone far enough along the line of centralization, and the warning of the Post may well be taken against proceeding any further. The next few months may be fraught with great events, which may change the future of the world in many ways, and before trying any more experiments, let's see what's going to happen.

## 'TISN'T LESS, BUT MORE.

We have coalless, meatless and wheatless days, and are likely to have the whole week taken up by—less days of some sort, for the weather is pitiless and spring floods are likely to intensify or continue the transportation problem.

These days will all be days of denial and sacrifice for France, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, Rumania and Serbia, and they should have better names than "coalless," "porkless," "wheatless," etc. There is much in psychology, much in the association of the purpose with the thing. Why not cut out the "less," which has an ugly sound and does not at all express the fact that, while we have less, our friends have more, and that there really is no loss? Why not something like this:

Italian coal day—Monday.

British meat day—Tuesday.

French wheat day—Wednesday.

And so on, naming our days on which we sacrifice after one of the allied countries most particularly benefited by our sacrifice. The "less" smacks of loss. There is no loss but all gain in what we deny ourselves on our "less" days. We simply put our coal, meat and wheat to fighting in Europe.

Here goes for Italian day, British day, French day, Belgian day, all the days for gall in allied fighting strength that are put up to us!

## ANNEXATIONS BY FORCE.

Says the Springfield Union:

"Annexations by force are, Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann says, contrary to German policy. From which, if he is speaking sincerely, it is evident that Von Kuehlmann is a poor student of German history, and is not in the confidence of the gentlemen who assist the kaiser in formulating German policy."

Von Kuehlmann might, in further elaboration of "German policy," inform a waiting world what the contention is about at Brest-Litovsk. The Russians have declined to agree to annexations without force. If, therefore, Von Kuehlmann knows what he is talking about, and means anything he says, negotiations with Russia ought to be easily consummated.

It is probable, however, that what Von Kuehlmann meant was that annexations by force at the hands of some other nation is "contrary to German policy." The sifting process of actual negotiations usually brings the bits of paper to the surface. Potential "policies" are discovered in the final analysis.

The Miami Metropolis thinks the south could feed the country if the government would help with labor and machinery. The Metropolis probably doesn't mean to insinuate that the south needs guardianship.

A Chicago exchange thinks it can see, at Armageddon or wherever the final issue comes, a line-up of pork and beans on one side as against wieners, wurst and sauerkraut on the other. The contest should not long remain in doubt.

## SALOONS OR SCHOOLS.

Criticism is a right—if it is a right—the exercise of which comes easy. It is one which is not apt to suffer deterioration from neglect to use. Criticism is not always pleasant, but it is a great promoter of progress in a democracy. It doesn't have to be just and fair to be useful, though, of course, it ought to be.

But what we had in mind when beginning this article was a criticism printed in the Chicago Herald a few days ago which was based on the fact that in enforcing the fuel order in the Windy City it was decided to close the schools while the saloons and cabarets were left running. The remarkable feature of the comment was that it did not put the blame on the government, on Garfield, on the governor, the mayor or the school board, but declared "it rests on us, parents and citizens, who think nothing matters if we cannot calculate its loss in dollars and cents." That is a withering criticism, but one of the fairest and sanest we have seen.

In the final analysis, public opinion is responsible, and public opinion is educated by criticism. The Herald is anything but a common scold, but in this case it goes straight to the mark. "Public opinion seems to coincide with the idea that (fuel) will do the community the most good in saloons, which in more than half the states of the Union are not allowed existence at all, and in cabarets, which so short a time ago we were all stirred up to crusade against, and will do the least good in the schools, which are in theory the rock upon which our system of government is founded." It is the old story of private energy and public indifference.

It was argued that a week or two lost out of the schools really made little difference. It could be made up later, perhaps, and, if not, nobody was much the worse for it. But not a minute could be spared from the allotted time of the saloons and cabarets without dire consequences! That argument, as the Herald remarks, would not fool anybody who did not wish to be fooled. "War conditions have already driven thousands of children to work too early; now thousands more, sick of idleness, have left their study not for a while but forever. The schools are open again this week, but these pupils are not there." It happened in that case, as it has so often before, that interruption of the child's school work terminated it for all time.

Cruelly the Herald continues that it is a case of "heads the breweries win, tails the children lose." The school board blames Garfield and Garfield blames the weather, and everybody joins in blaming the interstate commerce commission and the government lack of foresight. Meanwhile, elbows may be hoisted without interruption and song and dance go on merrily, and only a few thousand little human bricks upon which the city's strength in the future might have been built get kicked out of

place permanently." So much for the enlightenment and discrimination of public opinion!

It will be remembered that the state superintendent, in a burst of patriotic zeal, "requested" that the schools of Tennessee, regardless of their stock of fuel, be closed for three weeks, but good sense came to the rescue and the order was not enforced. The people of Tennessee think better of the schools than they do in Chicago. As for saloons, they are no longer tolerated. We are gradually acquiring a sense of discrimination, the end of which the Herald's criticism is intended and destined to promote.

## MOST MORTAL OFFENSE.

A comparatively insignificant incident gives a flood of light on public opinion in Europe. The Germans have court-martialed two captured British aviators, whose offense was not the dropping of bombs on defenseless women and children, but of throwing the wayside with propaganda leaflets. They have, according to a German paper, been sentenced to ten years. Great Britain will take reprisals. Item No. 1.

Item No. 2, and just as remarkable, is that the leaflets were in almost identical language with those used by the bolsheviks in their bombardments of the German camps. They were appeals to the working people of Germany to rise against their masters and restore lasting peace. Thus we have a situation in which the enemy seems to be aroused to greatest indignation by warfare of paper bullets containing peace propaganda, and our friends are endangering their lives to shoot such paper bullets at them.

Verily, Charles M. Schwab wasn't far wrong when he said the workingmen would some day control the world. If so, they will do so in the interest of a system which will not permit monarchs or capitalists to exploit countries for their own selfish ends.

## A GOOD CITIZEN GONE.

The passing of J. W. Adams takes away a citizen who for many years was one of the leaders in Chattanooga. In the days that tried men's souls, in the early period of Chattanooga's growth, this citizen who came here from a northern state, burning the bridges behind him, risked his all in a business way on the progress of Chattanooga. His was a far-seeing eye. Before any one else had realized the possibilities of water power development he had studied the subject and was a pioneer in inducing capital to take hold of it. His life was practical. All over the city are buildings which he designed and erected. He realized early the beauty and availability of our native limestone and in the time before concrete was introduced he made it the most used of our building materials. Mr. Adams was a great worker for church and education. He had a strong personality and his opinions carried weight. He lived to a ripe old age and Chattanooga will remember his name.

Billy Possum's chief associate, Farmer L. M. Pindell, and his assistant, H. C. Gross, are deserving of great praise for the accuracy with which they predicted the height the river would reach in the freshet. Their forecast was 42.5 for this morning. The gauge actually registered just a fraction of a tenth less. This was a remarkably accurate estimate, and in view of the many circumstances surrounding this tide it was unprecedentedly accurate. There was much snow in the mountains. A thaw started the flood. Other rains followed the first. The skill with which the public has been informed of the likely stage of the water gives every one confidence for such a contingency in the future. At least we shall always know the worst.

Hundreds of families have been warned in time and thousands of dollars worth of property protected.

It is a reasonably safe bet that the New York World and the Louisville Courier-Journal will object to the adoption of Joe Tumulty's advice to Jersey democrats to "get off the beer wagon" as a slogan for the democracy they represent.

Maj. Niven, of the almost extinct Princess Pat regiment, hasn't had enough and will again go to the front. The heroism of that organization, which lost 985 members at the first battle of Ypres, is comparable with that of Thermopylae, the charge of the Light Brigade the Alamo and Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

## MEATLESS SUNDAY OBSERVED IN LONDON

Real Shortage Due to Killing of Young Cattle—Day of Prayer.

(London Daily Mail of Jan. 5.)

A week ago I wrote that almost the only real food shortage was in margarine and butter, so far as retail buying was concerned. When I wrote this it was true, but unfortunately it is no longer true. In the middle of last week there came rumors of a great meat shortage. At first the inhabitants took no notice of it. "Mon-sieur," he whispered confidentially, "the dog makes very good sausage." Well, we have a long way to go before the dog will make sausage here, although I did hear some sinister suggestions about the real nature of the skinned rabbits which were sold in some of the poorer parts of London on Saturday night. One joker declared that some of these rabbits had in their lifetime been cats!

London's Solemn Sunday. Last Sunday will stand out in the history of London. Every public house and saloon was closed, except at the railway stations. "It's as bad as a Scotch Sabbath," grumbled an old Scot as he went from house to house vainly seeking for his mid-day tot of whisky. The cinema theaters were closed. The churches were full. The king had appointed it as a day

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

By Condo

BUT LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING, GENTLEMEN, ALTHOUGH I AM AN AMERICAN AND ALL THAT, GERMANY CAN'T BE BEATEN.



BUT I KNOW OF ONE OF HER AGENTS THAT CAN BE!!!



## THE JARR FAMILY

By Roy L. McCardell

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"This is my coming out party," began Mr. Jarr, as the auction pinnole game began in Gus' place.

"Well, come out of your trance, then!" said Mr. Jarr. "You've made a mistake. I say this is my coming out party," repeated Mr. Jarr, as he corrected his error in distribution. "I'm coming out for a good time. I've been good too long."

"What do you mean, you are out for a good time because you've been too good too long? Why, you know you never were any good," remarked the caustic Rangle.

"What I mean is that I have been having a bad time in good company, and now I'm going to have a good time in bad company," Mr. Jarr explained.

"Cut it all out!" growled Rafferty, the builder. "Cut out the bolshevik boys, too. I bid three hundred!"

"Is it my imagination, or are you burning real coal in this man trap?" asked Mr. Jarr of Gus. "But I'm bringing a bad time in good company, and now I'm going to have a good time in bad company," Mr. Jarr explained.

"You misunderstand Ed Jarr, Gus," said Mr. Rangle. "He is not discussing the indignity, he is speaking of the offices in the epidermis. Get that, the orifices!"

"Yes, I know, the orifices," interrupted Gus. "But it is all the same. In Russia they say the poor is to have a chance. As for the officers, who causes for them in Russia? I know a feller, speaking of officers, who thought them Sam Brown belt bidders."

try. Wild rabbits fetched as much as each; the old price was, I believe, 15. 3d. The sausage shops were cleared out by midday. My household had its Sunday dinner of sausages, and although they were obtained from one of the big West End stores there did not seem to be more than an ounce of meat in the pound of sausages; the remainder was bread and fat. Trade men took the opportunity to force up all kinds of odd foods to extravagant prices.

## The Cause of the Shortage.

Now what is the real cause of this? We are told by the authorities that farmers are withholding supplies in an attempt to force up prices. But some of my readers may remember that last autumn in this London letter I reported a talk which I then had with an old farmer outside London who exactly forecasted then what has actually taken place. He said that the conditions and prices imposed by the authorities made it no longer possible for farmers to breed cattle profitably. They could not afford to keep on at a loss, and therefore they would send their immature beasts to the market in the autumn. In place of fattening them, and at the new year we would find ourselves with a meat famine. Of course, there is plenty to eat still. The restaurants yesterday were advertising five and six-course dinners, and you need not picture us as a hungry people.

Talking of food supplies makes me think of the condition of things in one district with which I am acquainted in Belgium. In that district there used to be large numbers of dogs there. Recently when I visited the place I found that all the dogs had disappeared, and I asked one of the inhabitants the reason. "Mon-sieur," he whispered confidentially, "the dog makes very good sausage." Well, we have a long way to go before the dog will make sausage here, although I did hear some sinister suggestions about the real nature of the skinned rabbits which were sold in some of the poorer parts of London on Saturday night. One joker declared that some of these rabbits had in their lifetime been cats!

London's Solemn Sunday. Last Sunday will stand out in the history of London. Every public house and saloon was closed, except at the railway stations. "It's as bad as a Scotch Sabbath," grumbled an old Scot as he went from house to house vainly seeking for his mid-day tot of whisky. The cinema theaters were closed. The churches were full. The king had appointed it as a day

would be fashionable with the officers of the United States army. So this feller he put about a million dollars into making them Sam Brown belts, but after he made them a law was passed by somebody that American officers couldn't wear them, so this feller goes broke."

"I hear the American officers abroad may wear the Sam Brown belt as part of their dress uniform, but that they must not carry a sword," the English officers do. And that's the way you can tell British officers from American officers," remarked Mr. Jarr.

"But, suppose they wear a monkey?" Gus inquired.

"A what?" chorused the rest. "A monkey in the eye, which is a piece of round glass," Gus explained. "I asked Slavinsky, the glazier, why he didn't go over where the war is and get a government contract to put them monkeys in the officers' eyes. But Slavinsky said, no putty or tacks was used and even a Swede janitor could put them monkeys in. And things like that was always sold at the five and ten cent stores, where you could get a complete outfit, maybe two monkeys for five cents. Any way, Slavinsky said he knew it wouldn't pay him to handle them."

"Let's cut out the war talk," said John W. Rangle. "It makes me sore to think there is a great and desperate struggle for democracy and liberty going on, and fate forbids me to participate."

"I guess you are awfully angry at fate on that account?" remarked Rafferty, the builder.

"Gentlemen! If such aspersions continue I shall be compelled to leave you!" said Mr. Jarr, with great dignity.

"What do you think you'll hear at home at this hour?" asked Mr. Rangle. "It's a quarter of twelve, better stay real late, then you may have a chance to run the blockade without waking your wife. But this is just the time that every married lady whose husband is out is at her wakefullest. Oh, boy!"

And the wretches played till 2 a.m.

of prayer. Churchmen and nonchurchmen who have been coming together more and more closely during the last three years sank their differences altogether in many places. Thus at one great gathering in the London opera house the bishop of London presided, the leaders of the free churches were on the platform, and the principal speaker was Gipsy Smith, the famous Free Church evangelist. The lord mayor and sheriffs attended St. Paul's cathedral in state. The volunteers and the special constables—the latter becoming a more and more important part of our life—paraded and went to church.

The note throughout the gatherings was one of appeal and of confidence. This war has at once strengthened and severely shaken the religious sentiment of the nation. Many men and women find themselves perplexed and doubting over a Divine Providence which allows such abominations to go on in the world as are going on today. On the other hand, men face to face with the realities of war find more and more the need of something greater than human philosophy. "There are no atheists in the trenches," said one soldier truly. Our youngest general shortly before his gallant death recently in a message to the people of his own town called on them to pray. On Sunday last London turned to God.

## CITY SUES TO RECOVER \$2,489.25 FROM HAYES

As directed by the city commission Tuesday, City Attorney Frank Carden filed a bill in chancery court Friday afternoon against Circuit Court Clerk Charles L. Hayes and against Charles Reif, W. B. Miller and J. M. Howard, bondsmen of Mr. Hayes. The suit was filed in behalf of the city of Chattanooga and prays for a judgment against the defendants for \$2,489.25, together with interest on each item of penalties and interest on delinquent tax collections. The bill begins by setting out the powers of the city to levy and collect taxes for each fiscal year, showing some taxpayers neglect to pay the taxes levied on their real estate and become delinquent taxpayers. The bill further sets out several sections of the city charter, which show that under the power of the charter Mr. Hayes and his bondsmen are indebted to the city of Chattanooga to the amount sued for.

## STATE POLITICS

(By T. J. Campbell)

If it has accomplished nothing more the announcement of Gen. Charles T. Cates as a candidate against Senator John K. Shields has started the talking in the political circles of Tennessee. It was a ringing, virile document, written in the peculiarly vigorous style which characterizes Gen. Cates' productions. Concerning its permanent value and its timeliness as a declaration of principles and its efficacy as a solvent of political questions, opinions may differ. There are items in the record of Senator Shields— which Gen. Cates mentions—which might with propriety and with effect be urged against his re-election, and some which Gen. Cates omits. There are others upon which it would appear difficult to base a winning campaign. Senator Shields' methods of political organization are not in accord with the genius of democracy, though they are in common use. His unyielding attitude of friendliness toward corporations, which has apparently delayed the enactment of a water power bill in the very best form of legislation, is a subject for criticism on the same general lines as his political methods. Gen. Cates will probably not neglect either of these advantages. It is doubtful, however, if much is to be made out of the senator's co-operation and its lack of co-operation with the president. A loyal, patriotic senator will support the president, especially in a time of war, as far as he can, with reason and decency, under his oath of office and his responsibility as a senator and under the constitution. And there isn't much danger of electing a disloyal senator from Tennessee this year. But probably every day of a senator's service finds him coming up with his must decide for himself regardless of the attitude of the president. One of Tennessee's greatest senators, who served during both terms of President Cleveland, often differed widely from his chief, but he never seemed to lose any of the regard of Tennesseans on that account. In his zeal to find issues and to serve the president more effectively, Gen. Cates may leave open the door for the entry of Senator Evans or some other, old-fashioned democrat who will be satisfied with the simple program of representing and serving the people of Tennessee. Every loyal Tennessean—and that is about all of them—will agree with Gen. Cates in the rigid enforcement of the laws against treason and sedition, but some differences might arise as to what constituted these crimes. There was a time when ultra and vexatious alien and sedition laws were not popular in this country. It remains to be seen whether the popular mind has changed. It is also a question as to whether Gen. Cates' endorsement of the Roosevelt-Chamberlain proposal of a permanent policy of universal military training, after the war, would be an invitation to turn the war veterans of the nation or the people of Tennessee. Surface indications point the other way. Regarding issues omitted, something may be said in this column after other candidates have declared themselves.

In a manner very gratifying to his friends, Gen. Cates has made public reply to the insinuation that "serious charges" were filed against him with the supreme court on the occasion when he was named as a candidate for state attorney-general. It is apparent from the text and nature of this reply that it will do no good to raise the personal issue between him and Senator Shields. The people of Tennessee are very much interested in the issues involved in the election of a senator, but they will only be bored by a campaign of personalities. But Gen. Cates' reply is an invitation to turn the spotlight on his life, public and private. Judge Shields was a member of the supreme court on both occasions when Gen. Cates was elected attorney-general and was in Tennessee when the war was in its now sought to revive never brought before the court, but it is safe to say all the judges were familiar with them and by their votes indicated that they were not. Gen. Cates very properly says that if any personal questions between Senator Shields and himself are to be issues, let the senator raise them.

A republican among the rounds that the republicans will nominate Hon. H. Clay Evans, of this city, as their candidate for the senate. If this is intended as a compliment to the distinguished Chattanooga, it is well merited, but it is doubtful whether he would be very much excited over it. Time was when he was a tower of strength to his party in Tennessee and a foe man worthy any man's steel, but that was some time ago. It is now probably a little concerned about empty honors. Mr. Evans, however, is perhaps his party's one best bet.

Speaker Clyde Shropshire, of Nashville, the Tennessee house of representatives, who has designs upon the governorship, was over this way to see us this week. He didn't seem to have much to say to the newspapers, however, and we are left somewhat in the dark as to whether he found this the enemy's country.

Congressman Dick Austin seems to be renewing his hold upon the Second congressional district, and is running for it while that Senator John C. Houk, of Knoxville, would enter the lists against him, but the senator has finally decided that it would probably be easier to go back to the state senate, which is preferable to having no office at all.

As foreshadowed in this column, Judge Ewin L. Davis has declared himself a candidate for reelection to the office of the Fifth district, who will not run again. Judge Davis' probable entry has brought forth many felicitous expressions all over the state. It has even been predicted that he will have no opposition.

Besides the state republican judicial ticket a few other judicial contests remain to be disposed of. One of them is in Knox county, where the chancellor is a democrat, and the other one among Chancellor Will D. Wright, A. C. Grimm and Hu M. Tate. An interesting report comes from the Athens circuit to the effect that the opposition to Judge Brown and Attorney-General Peace will put into the field a fusion ticket composed of Capt. J. W. Staples, of Harrison, judge, and Hon. A. J. Fletcher, of Cleveland, for attorney-general.

Hamilton county has just selected one of her sons for the position of attorney-general, and the choice will not be easy since several of them want the job. George W. Chamblee is the latest entry. Apparently there will be no contest over any of the judgeships.

Candidates for the legislature have begun feeling out the situation in several of the counties, but none so far as observed, has favored us with his plans for relieving the deficit in Tennessee finances. Legislators, as a general rule, are more expert in creating deficits than in curing them.

There appear to be a number of gentlemen in Hamilton county who are willing to serve in official capacity, but formal announcements have not yet become fashionable. If we could have a few warm, sunny days they would probably begin to come out into the open.